

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application. Claims 1-6, 8-13 and 16-23 have been canceled. Claim 7 has been currently amended. Support for the amendment may be found throughout the specification and drawings.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-6, 8-13 and 16-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Miller et al. ("Miller", U.S. Patent Number 6,539,531). Applicants respectfully disagree. However, Claims 1-6, 8-13 and 16-23 have been canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Patent Office has indicated that Claims 14-15 are allowed (Office Action, Page 4).

The Patent Office has acknowledged that Claim 7 is directed to allowable subject matter and has indicated that Claim 7 "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims" (Office Action, Page 4). Applicants have rewritten Claim 7 in accordance with the Patent Office's instruction. Thus, Claim 7 should be allowed.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in the case.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
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